



FACT SHEET

EPA Redesignates Ada County/Boise, Idaho to Attainment for PM₁₀

What Action is EPA Taking?

EPA is approving a PM₁₀ air quality maintenance plan for Ada County/Boise, Idaho as part of Idaho's State Implementation Plan and simultaneously redesignating Ada County/Boise, Idaho as a PM₁₀ attainment area.

What is PM₁₀?

PM₁₀ is particulate matter (dust and soot) with a diameter of less than 10 microns. Particles this size can penetrate the lungs and cause respiratory problems, especially in children and older adults.

What is a State Implementation Plan?

The Clean Air Act requires states to attain and maintain ambient air quality equal to or better than standards that provide an adequate margin of safety for public health and welfare. These ambient air quality standards are established by EPA and are known as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, or NAAQS. A state's plans for attaining and maintaining the NAAQS are outlined in a State Implementation Plan (or SIP). Each state currently has a SIP in place, and the Clean Air Act requires periodic revisions to provide continued compliance with the standards. In this case, Idaho's SIP is being revised to include a PM₁₀ maintenance plan for the Ada County/Boise area.

Why is EPA taking this Action?

The State of Idaho requested that EPA change the Ada County/Boise area's NAAQS

designation to "attainment" for PM₁₀. The area is currently meeting the NAAQS for PM₁₀ and State of Idaho has adopted a plan that shows the area will continue to maintain the PM₁₀ standards until at least 2013. Because this plan meets federal Clean Air Act requirements, EPA is redesignating the area to attainment for PM₁₀ as requested by the State.

What Does This Mean for the Ada County/Boise, Idaho area?

Since the State of Idaho has already adopted the PM₁₀ maintenance plan, our approval does not change the pollution control measures in place for the area. However, our approval makes the measures federally-enforceable. The action also means continued federal transportation funding for the area and changes to permit requirements for new and modified major sources of PM₁₀.

When will the action be published?

EPA signed this action on September 29, 2003. It may be several weeks before it is published in the *Federal Register* and will be effective 30 days after publication. When published, the notice can be found on the internet at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/AIRPAGE.NSF/webpage/Boise+PM10+Attainment>

For more information:

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